

domestic violence cases. Police who respond to a domestic fight must make an arrest if they have probable cause to believe abuse occurred within 4 hours. The Duluth model seeks to hold an abuser accountable at every stage of the legal process. The program, which has an 87 percent conviction rate for spousal abuse cases, tracks a couple from a 911 call to the time an abuser finishes probation.

In addition to a mandatory arrest policy—first offenders typically spend at least one night in jail—there is a “no drop” prosecution policy. All cases are prosecuted regardless of whether the woman wants to proceed. Judges in Duluth sentence men who plead guilty to misdemeanor spousal assault to 30-to-90 days in jail, which is suspended if they enter the 6-month treatment program, consisting of weekly counseling sessions. Typically men who miss three consecutive classes are arrested and jailed. This model is one which should be replicated in communities throughout the Nation. Such policies send a clear message to batterers that abuse will not be tolerated.

Violence against women is a public health problem of enormous magnitude which exacts a tremendous cost on our Nation's women and children. We cannot begin to address this problem until we all open our eyes to the magnitude of the problem. We can't make our streets safe if we can't make our homes safe. To do this we must all get involved. Neighbors must contact the police when they hear violent arguments, relatives should lend support to family members in need, and teachers should be aware of signs that students have witnessed violence at home. Pastors and clergy cannot tell a battered spouse to “try and make it work.” Sending a woman home to a battering spouse often places a woman's life at risk. We need to let abuse victims know that there are options available to them and their children. And we in Congress and local governments must work to ensure that these options are available. Early intervention is crucial, and it is essential if we are to reduce the epidemic of abuse in our homes and our society.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that this month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It's been hard to compete for news coverage to raise awareness given all of the attention the O.J. verdict and trial has received—a trial where the issue of domestic violence should have played a critical role. This month, no one can get in a word about anything besides O.J., so I suppose I'll have to comment on the trial if I want to see my remarks in print.

Let me say that juror No. 7, Brenda Moran, was under a false impression when she implied there was no relationship between spousal abuse and murder. In 1990, 30 percent of women who were murdered were killed by husbands or boyfriends. Estimates show that one in six women in this country are, or have been, victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence knows no socio-economic, ethnic, or racial lines. Women across America are abused and killed by their partners, and we must do more to stop this.

Also occurring this month are negotiations between House and Senate conferees to the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill where the funding level for the Violence Against Women Act will be decided. In 1993, the Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, a promise to finally treat domestic violence like the crime that it is, to improve

law enforcement, to make streets and homes safer for women, and to vigorously prosecute perpetrators. We promised more counseling. We promised more shelter to provide a safe haven for abused women. Yet this summer, the House of Representatives abandoned these promises. The House-passed Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill has a \$50 million shortfall in funds for the Violence Against Women Act. I fear this may be interpreted as a message to battered women that there are few resources for them, only empty promises. I implore the conferees to adopt the Senate level of funding to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act at \$175 million.

The funding is critical to stopping abuse and providing counseling. Rainbow Services is a shelter in San Pedro, CA, in my district, that desperately needs the money to implement its programs to combat domestic violence. Two women the Rainbow Services shelter and tried to help, were killed in the last 6 months—women whose lives could have been saved had they had been able to stay at the shelter longer. These women came forward and tried to do the right thing, but the resources were not there to keep them away from their abusers long enough. Clearly, grants from the Violence Against Women Act translate into saving human lives.

Rainbow Services has long waiting lists for counseling, beds, and all of its other services. The number of women who come seeking help has doubled in the last 3 months since a domestic violence hotline was established in May. The increased funds from California's VAWA grant only constitutes half of what they need for their emergency response program, a program operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Rainbow Services recently received a grant for a new shelter—the first shelter for battered elderly women in the area—and the Violence Against Women Act grants are critical to its operation.

I recently visited several shelters in my district and talked to women and heard their stories. I have urged the Los Angeles district attorney, Gil Garcetti, to step up the local commitment to violence against women. But until our national consciousness is raised, local efforts will be inadequately supported and financed.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but we must realize that victims of domestic violence live in fear every day of every year. The FBI estimates that a woman is battered every 5 to 15 seconds in America. Our commitment must not be limited to recognizing a special month to combat domestic violence, or simply funding programs to stop the violence. We must continue to raise this issue at the local level, the State level, and the national level until women are no longer afraid to reach out for help, until there are no women turned away at shelters because they are too full, and until domestic violence is recognized as the crime that it is.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Violent attacks are the No. 1 health threat to women in this country. In fact, women are at greater risk of injury from violent attacks than they are from cancer or heart attacks; or auto accidents, plane crashes, AIDS, or drowning.

Since coming to Congress, I have actively supported legislation to prevent violence against women. Unfortunately, the strides we

made in the last Congress through passage of the Violence Against Women Act [VAWA] are being threatened by legislation this Congress which decreases levels of funding for essential programs.

My home State of Rhode Island is fortunate to have excellent resources for women who are victims of violence. I have had the opportunity to work with many of the people who have dedicated their lives to helping these victims, and I am well aware of the important and necessary work that they are doing. But we must continue to support these efforts. Much more remains to be done. Last year in Rhode Island more than 4,100 people asked the district and family courts for protection from abuse; 14,120 calls for help were answered on our State's seven domestic abuse hotlines; 854 abused women and children found safety and support in Rhode Island's six domestic violence shelters; 8,752 clients received advocacy and assistance from Rhode Island's domestic violence shelters and advocacy programs; and at least 12 people died in Rhode Island as a result of domestic violence, more than twice the number in 1993.

These numbers clearly illustrate the need for funding VAWA programs and strong laws to curb and prevent domestic violence. I will continue to work to strengthen laws, support legislation, and ensure Federal support for programs aimed at combating violence against women. I urge my colleagues to continue to raise awareness of this issue, and to support legislation aimed at solving this national crisis.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to insert in the RECORD their comments with regard to our special order on Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for this week and next, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. MARTINEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. THURMAN, for 5 minutes, today.